

How My Office Can Help You

My office staff is available to assist veterans in a variety of matters. We can help in applying for VA benefits, answering questions about health care including the special needs of disabled veterans, obtaining copies of your separation papers, service records, and replacing lost medals. For more information, please feel free to call my Lorain County office at **440-245-5350** or my Summit County office at **330-865-8450**.

Please visit www.house.gov/sherrodbrown and click on the veterans services page for updated information on veterans services and legislation and links to veterans organizations.

The Library of Congress **Veterans History Project** collects and preserves accounts of United States wartime service. The Library of Congress invites those who served and civilians who supported war efforts to share their valuable stories. For more information on the Veterans History Project, visit:

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Congressman Brown's office is able to secure U.S. flags that can be flown over the U.S. Capitol. Each flag comes with a certificate of authenticity, indicating the date on which it was flown. Flag order forms are available on Congressman Brown's Web site at www.house.gov/sherrodbrown. Pocket-sized copies of the United States Constitution are available by calling Congressman Brown's Lorain County or Summit County office.

For more information visit me at:

www.house.gov/sherrodbrown



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Official Business



Sherrod Brown

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Congressman Sherrod Brown

Reports

TO VETERANS

THE NEW GI BILL OF RIGHTS

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are creating a new generation of veterans. These brave men and women deserve a new GI Bill that guarantees access to education, health care and the opportunity for good jobs.

The New GI Bill of Rights ensures that health care is accessible and affordable for veterans. It increases funding for Veterans Administration (VA) health care, blocks fee increases, and improves coverage for mental health services.

This legislation also honors the contribution of the National Guard and Reserves with provisions to protect their income and expand TRICARE military health coverage.

I am proud to be an early supporter of this legislation.

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.”

George Washington, 1789

REPORT TO VETERANS

AMVETS Career Center

On May 1, 2005, Congressman Brown joined in the dedication of the new Daniel M. Shepherd AMVETS Career Center in Elyria in memory of Daniel Shepherd, a Lorain County soldier who died in the Iraq conflict.

The AMVETS Career Center is one of two AMVETS Career Centers located in the 13th Congressional District,

established to provide training and career assistance to veterans and active personnel who have served our country honorably.

Career Services range from welding and precision measuring, to work-related licenses and certifications such as FAA Aircraft Mechanic License and Ohio Commercial Drivers License.

Services are free to veterans and military personnel. For more information, call **1 - (800) OH AMVET** or visit:

Post 32 Satellite Center
11807 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-458-8544

Post 176 Satellite Center
3944 Wheatley Road
Richfield, OH 44286
330-659-3924

Budget Shortfall

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently identified a staggering shortfall in veterans health care funding. Congressman Brown joined more than 200 colleagues in calling for a \$1.3 billion Emergency Supplemental Spending bill to address this shortage. However, this legislation is just the first step.

The President's FY 2006 budget provides at least \$3 billion less than veterans service organizations say is needed to meet the needs of our veterans. Over five years, the budget for veterans programs, primarily health care, is \$15 billion below the amount needed to maintain services at current levels. In 2006, the VA expects to treat 5.2 million veterans – double the number treated in 1995. And health care inflation is approximately seven percent a year.

Members have encouraged the President to submit budgets that more accurately reflect the needs of our veterans in the future.

Congressman Brown will continue working to ensure that veterans receive the health care and benefits they have earned.



Congressman Brown recently participated in a ribbon cutting event during the opening of the new VA clinic located at the St. Joseph Community Center in Lorain. Plans are also underway to acquire 3,000 additional square feet to expand services this fall at the Akron VA Clinic. Pictured (from left to right): Maureen Michael, Executive Director of South Shore Community Development; Congressman Brown; Craig Foltin, Mayor of Lorain; William Montague, Director of the Cleveland VA Medical Center.

Helping Our Newest Veterans

Northeast Ohio has already witnessed the return of more than 2000 reservists and guard members who were deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Unfortunately, only about one-third of these new veterans have signed up for the benefits to which they are entitled. There are two important steps that all returning reservists and guard members should take. First, reservists and guard members are eligible for two years of Veterans Administration (VA) health care, but they must enroll to receive this benefit. Even if they generally use private physicians, they should be seen by VA doctors, who are trained to look for specific health

problems relating to combat. By identifying problems early it will be easier to document service connection and this could help with a future VA claim. To enroll in VA health care, call the VA at **(877) 222-8387**. In addition, reservists and guard members should be aware that they may be eligible for compensation for disabilities incurred or aggravated during active duty. To initiate the compensation process, call the VA at **(800) 827-1000**. Additional information about these and other benefits for returning reservists and guard members is available at the VA Web site (www.va.gov).